



THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | SERIES: REDISCOVERING CHRISTMAS
TITLE: FINDING HOPE IN OUR UNCERTAINTIES
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:21-40

One Thing Follow-up

Like Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi, our lives are safe and purposeful in his hands.

Q. Share how God has given you a purpose.

Opening

As Christians, Scripture is our guide. This means all Scripture, not just the warm and fuzzy parts. Scripture can be hard, convicting. Everything we need to know about God and everything God has to say to Christians can be found on the pages of Scripture.

Series Review

We are starting Advent this week. It is a time to prepare our hearts and help us place our focus on a far greater story than our own—the story of God’s redeeming love for our world. We will be stepping in and out of various Christmas scenes from Scripture. We will attempt to rediscover Christmas and the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Review the Message

We begin Advent with rediscovering the hope of Christmas, even when we are surrounded by uncertainty.

Q. On a scale of 1-10, where would you rate your hope today?

Read Luke 2:21-24

Q. What do we learn about how Jesus will be raised?

Q. How can hope be present in the controversial person of Jesus Christ?

Read Luke 2:25-38

Q. How did Simeon react?

Q. How did Anna react?

In Jesus' short life, he has been rejected by family, but embraced by outcasts (the shepherds) and the weak (the elderly Simeon and Anna). This is a pattern that will follow Jesus and does to this day.

Q. Why is it important to have 2 or 3 witnesses to establish truth? Who is the 3rd witness in these verses?

Four truths about Hope.

1. Hope has a name. There is no hope, like the hope that is found in Jesus.

Q. In what ways has Jesus brought you hope?

2. Hope is present.

Q. Why is the name Immanuel so significant?

Immanuel – hope is with us today.

3. Hope is real even when we're struggling.

Read 8:24-26

Q. What does it mean to “hope for what we do not see?”

Hope is the willingness and desire to believe beyond what our present circumstances and reality are presenting to us.

4. Hope requires a response.

Q. Share some ways that you will choose to respond differently this year for Christmas.

The entire ministry of Jesus, the hope God offers, requires a response.

In the midst of whatever life is throwing at us, we can experience the hope of God's Spirit within us, carrying us, strengthening us, emboldening us, and giving us the strength to take the next step before us.

Q. What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

Living It Out Application

Prayer:

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?